

IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all claims under examination is submitted, and the status of each is identified. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-11. **(cancelled)**

12. **(currently amended)**: A soil treatment process comprising adding an aqueous soil treatment composition consisting essentially of:

(a) an ionic water-soluble fertilizer in an amount of at least 10 weight percent, and

(b) a water-soluble anionic polymer which has intrinsic viscosity of from 9 to 12 dl/g and is formed from water-soluble monomer blend comprising 60 to 80 wt.% anionic monomer and from 40 to 20 wt.% nonionic monomer, the composition having a viscosity of not more than 4,000 cps, to water, the composition being thereby diluted, and irrigating an area of soil with the water, wherein the anionic polymer is formed from at least one anionic monomer selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids and salts thereof.

13. **(previously presented)**: A process according to claim 12 in which the soil is irrigated by furrow irrigation, drip irrigation, or spray irrigation.

14. **(previously presented)**: A process according to claim 12 in which water is pumped through feed ducting and a mixing zone to a spray manifold supplying one or more spraying devices by which the water is sprayed onto a crop area and the aqueous soil treatment composition is metered into the water at or before the mixing zone.

15. **(currently amended)**: A method for the production of an aqueous soil treatment composition comprising providing an aqueous solution of at least 10 wt% ionic water soluble fertilizer (a) and mixing it with polymer (b), said polymer (b) being a water soluble anionic polymer which has an intrinsic viscosity of from 9 to 12 dl/g and is formed from water-soluble monomer blend comprising 60 to 80 wt.% anionic monomer and from 40 to 20 wt.% nonionic monomer, the composition having a viscosity of not more than 4,000 cps, in powder form, wherein the anionic polymer is formed from at least one anionic monomer selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids and salts thereof.

16. **(previously presented)**: A soil treatment process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the composition has, before dilution, a viscosity below 4000 cPs.

17. **(previously presented)**: A process according to claim 12 in which the polymer (b) is a copolymer of acrylamide with an alkali metal salt of acrylic acid.

18. **(previously presented)**: A process according to claim 12 in which the polymer (b) is present in an amount of from 2 to 5 wt.%.

19. **(previously presented)**: A process according to claim 12 in which the fertiliser (a) is present in an amount of from 20 to 60 wt.%.

20. **(previously presented)**: A process according to claim 12 in which the aqueous soil treatment composition has a viscosity of from 200 to 500 cps.

21. **(previously presented)**: A process according to claim 12 in which the aqueous soil treatment

- composition has a viscosity of not more than 1,000 cps.